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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN PRESIDING

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, members of the Legislature, let me start out first by thanking both Senator Schrock and Senator Wickersham for all of the time they have spent this session prodding, and pushing, and encouraging the groups involved in this to come forward and present some kind of a solution. But for their strong encouragement there would be nothing here for you this year to deal with. Having said that, let me also say that the sad part of this give and take is that pesticide dealers and the pesticide distributors and the pesticide manufacturers and likewise those involved in the production of fertilizers still have not acknowledged in any sort of positive way their responsibility for what's going on out in the countryside. And the only reason they're doing this here today is because internally in this Legislature some independent thinkers have said there needs to be...there needs to be a solution, or at least a partial solution. And that's...and that's pretty sad. The other thing that I want to say is that it is in fact only a partial solution, and I almost hate to say that on such a good day as this because it's a chunk, it's a good chunk. But it will be back before you next year and we can discuss it further. But because it's so late in the session and because so many of you are interested in getting through a series of bills, what I have to say about this particular solution is going to be very limited. I want to point out a few things to you as we...as we go along. I want you to consider seriously, if you would, one amendment that I will...that I will run. The present amendment that is in front of you suggests that in addition to the taxes on pesticide dealers, producers, manufacturers, which constitutes all of the fees that are in this particular bill, or by and large all of the fees, all of the...all of the fees, except for property tax, in general...and General Funds relate to pesticide use. And the bill...the amendment I have in front of you suggests that an additional amount of money should come from the fertilizer side. I'm going to withdraw that amendment. But in withdrawing that